

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the previous amendments and the following remarks.

Before discussing the subject matter recited in the claims of this application and as a preface to commenting on the issues raised in the most recent Official Action, the following general overview is provided of features and operational characteristics associated with at least one embodiment of a catheter package described and illustrated in the present application. The catheter package 1 illustrated in Fig. 4 of the application is configured to hold a catheter astride over two trays 2 and 3. The two trays 2 and 3 are integrated with each other by at least one fixing member 30d. As discussed in paragraph [0030] of the application, the at least one fixing member 30d is slidably fitted over the sidewalls of the two trays 2 and 3.

Claim 1 is rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,508,806, hereinafter Hoste, in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,925,448, hereinafter Bazaral, and U.S. Patent No. 5,501,341, hereinafter Van Es.

Bazaral discloses a package A including various sections. However, it is quite clear from a careful study of Bazaral's disclosure that Bazaral's package does not include two trays which are integrated with each other by at least one fixing member, wherein the at least one fixing member is slidably fitted over sidewalls of the two trays. Indeed, the various sections of Bazaral's package are simply part of a single piece. Moreover, neither Hoste nor Van Es cure this deficiency in Bazaral.

Accordingly, neither Hoste, Bazaral or Van Es, alone or in combination, disclose, teach or suggest a catheter package packaging a catheter including a catheter body having a distal portion and a proximal portion, a tube wall defining a

lumen passing through from the distal portion to the proximal portion and a metal reinforce member embedded in the tube wall, and a connector part fixed to the proximal portion of the catheter body, wherein the catheter package holds the distal portion of the catheter of 10 to 50 cm in length in a natural state with no external force exerted thereon, and the catheter package holds the remaining proximal side of the catheter in a curled state with a curvature diameter of 10 to 50 cm, wherein the catheter is held astride over two trays of the catheter package, the two trays being integrated with each other by at least one fixing member, and wherein the at least one fixing member is slidably fitted over sidewalls of the two trays, as recited in amended Claim 1.

Claim 1 is therefore allowable over the disclosures in Hoste, Bazaral and Van Es, and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claim 10 is also rejected as being unpatentable over Hoste in view Bazaral and Van Es.

Bazaral discloses a package A including various sections. However, as discussed above with respect to Claim 1, it is quite clear from a careful study of Bazaral's disclosure that Bazaral's package does not include two trays which are integrated with each other by at least one fixing member, wherein the at least one fixing member is slidably fitted over sidewalls of the two trays. Moreover, neither Hoste nor Van Es cure this deficiency in Bazaral.

Accordingly, neither Hoste, Bazaral or Van Es, alone or in combination, disclose, teach or suggest a catheter packaged in a catheter package, the catheter package including two trays, each tray including a bottom and upstanding sidewalls, the catheter including a catheter body having a distal portion and a proximal portion,

a tube wall defining a lumen passing through from the distal portion to the proximal portion and a metal reinforce member embedded in the tube wall, and a connector part fixed to the proximal portion of the catheter body, the catheter package holding the distal portion of the catheter of 10 to 50 cm in length in a natural state with no external force exerted thereon, the catheter package holding the remaining proximal side of the catheter in a curled state with a curvature diameter of 10 to 50 cm, wherein the catheter is held astride over the two trays, the two trays being integrated with each other by at least one fixing member, and wherein the at least one fixing member is slidably fitted over the sidewalls of the two trays, as recited in amended Claim 10.

Claim 10 is therefore also allowable over the disclosures in Hoste, Bazaral and Van Es. Withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 10 is therefore also respectfully requested.

The dependent claims are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence from allowable independent claims. Accordingly, no further discussion of the dependent claims is needed at this time.

Early and favorable action with respect to this application is respectfully requested.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17 and 1.20(d) and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

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